



Newsletter 4 - Wednesday 29th April 2020



Kia Ora, Kia Orana, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Bula vanaka, Namaste, Marhabaan, Ni Hao

It seems like quite some time ago that I wrote the last newsletter! The last five weeks have been extremely different to what we are used to. We have had to unite in the fight against COVID-19 and as a country, we have done a pretty good job. Moving to Level 3 of the COVID-19 Alert Level System is a sign that we are heading in the right direction. I have all my fingers and toes crossed that as a country, we keep up the good work that we have been doing so we can keep moving down the levels, with getting back to routine and school really soon.

Thank you very much to all of our families who have looked after their children and themselves in their bubbles, keeping safe throughout the last five weeks. Two weeks ago we moved to our distance learning programmes for students, which includes working online and on hard copy. Teachers have been very busy setting learning tasks online each day for students and we have been enjoying catching up with students at Zoom meetings once a week. If your child has not joined one of these Zoom meetings for their class yet, I encourage you to do this. It is a really neat way to see everyone and have a catch up! Our Zoom meetings are safe as we have passwords on them. Teachers have been phoning students to check in, who can't use Zoom for catch ups, which we know has been much appreciated by families. Learning tasks are set each week day by teachers on four platforms that all students are familiar with as they use them at school. They are: Reading Eggs, Mathletics, Seesaw and Studyladder. Epic books is another platform students can use and they can read along or listen to stories to practice their reading. There are also the TV learning channels that students can watch. Distance learning is a directive from the Ministry of Education so the expectation is that students are completing some set work from home. We know wellbeing is key and must be prioritised for students and their families. Where possible, please work with your child to continue to build on their learning. The hard copy learning packs from the Ministry of Education have been well received by some families who required them. I have been really enjoying seeing all the completed work coming through Seesaw. Thank you to all of our fabulous parents and guardians who are helping their children with distance learning. We know it isn't easy, and you are not teachers, but we are thrilled with your efforts. If you have any questions about distance learning programmes, please contact your child's classroom teacher via email or send them a message on Seesaw, or you can text the school phone.

This week Farah Alibrahem turned five and has joined the Junior Learning Team. She has four big sisters at school: Shahed and Sham in the Junior Learning Team and Saja and Aya in the Senior Learning Team. It is strange times to be starting school but we know Farah's big sisters will be helping her at home with her distance learning. Farah is familiar with our school as she has been visiting with Family Ties Kindergarten across the road for transition visits through our very successful Transition to School Programme. Transition to School visits are held three times a term and are open for all four year olds in the district to attend. We look forward to getting this programme up and running again when things allow.

Pine Hill School will remain physically closed at Alert Level 3 of the COVID-19 Alert Level System as all of our students are able to stay at home and complete their distance learning. Thank you again to our wonderful school families for making this happen. Take care, keep safe and be kind.

Ngā mihi nui - Melissa Ward

RESPECT
CARING

RESPONSIBILITY
AIMING HIGH

School Notices

JUNIOR LEARNING TEAM UPDATE

The last four weeks have been very overwhelming and a new experience for everyone. We are so glad we have been able to stay at home to help New Zealand get rid of COVID-19. Over the last two weeks we have been getting into Term two by doing distance learning. Miss Hodges and Miss Riley have been so impressed and inspired by all of the amazing work that has been happening. We know this wouldn't be possible without our wonderful families and whanau, so we thank you for all your support and hard work. Last week we had a Zoom meeting and it was really lovely to catch up with everyone and allow students to interact with each other. We will be holding another Zoom meeting this Thursday at 11am. It is very exciting to be shifting to Level 3 this week as it means we are moving closer to getting back into the classroom. Welcome to Farah Alibrahem who has turned 5 and joined our classroom this week! We are missing everyone in the JLT so much and can't wait to see them all very soon.

SENIOR LEARNING TEAM UPDATE

Wow! The last four weeks have certainly been an unpredictable time for most of us. I would just like to say a huge thank you to whanau for all their support through this time. It has been really great to see students working from home for the past two weeks and producing some amazing work through their distance learning programme! This week I was fortunate to see some SLT students on Tuesday for our weekly Zoom catch up. These have been a great way to stay connected as a class and it is a highlight of the school week. These meetings will continue every Monday at 9:30am while we remain at Level 3. Over the next two weeks I will continue to assign daily reading and writing tasks on Seesaw, along with assigned tasks on Reading Eggs, Mathletics and Studyladder. I look forward to seeing you all sometime in the near future!

FRIENDS OF PINE HILL SCHOOL DUNEDIN

The Easter Raffle will be drawn as soon as possible when we get back to school. All raffle cards are to be returned and we will be drawing the prizes from the sold tickets. More information regarding a date for this will be made available when we know we can return to school.

TERM DATES

The remaining term dates for 2020 are:

Term Two: Wednesday 15th April - Friday 3rd July (12 weeks)

Term Three: Monday 20th July - Friday 25th September (10 weeks)

Term Four: Monday 12th October - Wednesday 16th December (9.5 weeks)

EMAIL ADDRESSES

You can contact us on the following email addresses:

renee@pinehilldunedin.school.nz

Renee Hodges: Junior Learning Team Teacher

amy@pinehilldunedin.school.nz

Amy Riley: Junior Learning Team Teacher

charlie@pinehilldunedin.school.nz

Charlie Parson: Senior Learning Team Teacher

office@pinehilldunedin.school.nz

Nikola Ballard: School Secretary

principal@pinehilldunedin.school.nz

Melissa Ward: Principal

